Chalakudi river, which is intended to irrigate about 2,000 acres of land in Travancore and which has to be carried out with the concurrence of and in conjunction with the Cochin Government. It may interest you to learn that both the Governments are now engaged in examining this project. Nor have the Government forgotten the minor irrigation tanks which form a special feature of the taluks of Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara. I recently inspected some of those tanks and I have proposed a scheme for their restoration at the joint cost of the Government and the ryot. Briefly put, the scheme is that Government should restore the tanks solely at their cost in the first instance and recover three-fourths of such cost from the ryots interested in easy instalments and that all this should be done in the course of half a dozen years, by ear-marking a definite sum yearly for the purpose. The further progress of the scheme will depend upon the response the ryots make to this proposal.

9. Development Departments.—Agriculture.—We now come to a consideration of the Development Departments, under which head we may suitably bring Co-operation, Agriculture with Fisheries, and Industries with Technical and Commercial Education. The Departments of Geology, Exise and Forests without whose help the development departments mentioned above cannot obtain much of the raw material required for their working, will also be simultaneously considered. The first thing that strikes one on an examination of the condition of these departments is the utter lack of co-ordination and correlation among them. Each of these departments has so far failed to make use of the help that can be rendered or the comparative experience that can be afforded by the others, and team work of the right sort, on which the cumulative success of these departments so largely depends, is conspicuous by its absence. Even the scientific equipment in men and material such as laboratories, staff of analysts, etc., are separate for each department, with the result that the equipment in every case is much below the mark while it could be brought up to the mark were it common to all the departments. The heads of these departments seldom meet and confer or consult. The only development department that has made some headway is that of Agriculture, and even here there is considerable room for improvement in the work of demonstration and propaganda as in scientific research. Only the fringe of many vital problems has been touched, and a good deal of spade work has still to be done before the foundations of the department can be said to be truly laid. No serious attempt has hitherto been made to tackle the problem of the industries subsidiary to agriculture and fisheries, and the want of capital and co-operative spirit which is so essential for the development of these industries, has not yet been remedied. I should not be taken as underestimating the results of the work the Agricultural Department has achieved so far. With the limited funds and staff placed at his disposal the Director has done a good deal, especially in the directions of popularising scientific manures, demonstrating on ryots' lands, combating pests, carrying on research and analysing soils. He is just now engaged in tackling the problems of punja cultivation with the help of the motor plough, of opening new demonstrational farms, of improving the local breeds of cattle by importing sires of better milking strains and greater capacity for work, and of popularising fish curing and fish oil industries. Finally, he has been endeavouring to popularise with a certain amount of success the cultivation of the mulberry and the rearing of the silkworm, and the Government have recently sanctioned his proposal to ear-mark some blocks of land in the Nedumangad taluk for assignment to silkworm rearers. When he secures the help of a properly qualified executive assistant whose appointment has been recently sanctioned, he will no doubt be able to add to the efficiency of his department. But the work that still remains to be done to bring the industry up to its level in advanced countries and make Travancore less dependent on imported food is far greater in magnitude than what has already been achieved. In this connection, I may state that the value of Government loans for agricultural improvements is little understood and that although a Regulation on the subject exists no rules have been framed to give practical effect to it. The necessary rules and table of equated repayments are under preparation.

10. Industries.—The Department of Industries is comparatively far younger, having been brought into existence only about a couple of years ago, and

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it is premature now to pronounce a verdict on its work. It cannot, however, be ignored that a policy of drift has been the standing feature of this department hitherto. Although certain very useful things have been done, such as the deputation of four scholars to Europe for equipment in different branches of industrial knowledge and the entertainment of certain officers who have had training in special industries like oil distillation, shellac manufacture, etc., the services of the latter have not been utilised to the best advantage of the State, and not one of these officers can claim to have laid the foundations of a new industry or to have popularised improvements in an existing industry. The foregoing criticism applies to cottage industries in particular, but, even in the case of industries on factory scale, the Director of Industries has not yet been in a position to place before the Government information on the strength of which a definite decision can be taken in respect any of them. Government have reasons to believe that the industrial resources of the country are great and that there are natural facilities for establishing chemical industries like those of margarine and soap, matches and pencils, wood distillation and sugar refining, pharmaceutical and alcoholic preparations, marine industries like fish oil, fish manures and shell work, agricultural industries like coir and fibre, and forest industries like essential oil extraction and paper pulp manufacture. The question of making the department more useful to the public is engaging the earnest attention of Government. An Industrial Exhibition was held in Trivandrum on the 26th October 1920 and the following days, in connection with the visit Their Excellencies the Governor of Madras and Lady Willingdon paid in kind response to the invitation of His Highness the Maha Raja, and the exhibition was a great eye-opener in regard to the immense industrial possibilities of the State.

11. Technical Education.—Closely allied with the question of industrial development is that of industrial and technical education. This subject has received attention in recent years and the Sri Mulam Technical School opened recently at Trivandrum is a model of its kind. A standard of general education is strictly insisted on for admission to the school, which has a fully qualified staff of teachers; the curriculum is suitable and the pupils receive excellent practical training in the P. W. D. Workshop close by, but the same cannot be said of the few other governmental technical institutions in the State. A school at Nagercoil for the teaching of weaving and one at Quilon for the teaching of carpentry and smithery have existed for some time past, but neither of them has been doing well, both being ill-equipped and ill-supervised by the Education Department under which they have been working. Admissions to both were haphazard and the lines of work were quite confused. Without any attempt at improving the existing schools, another institution for weaving was started last year by the Director of Industries at Eraniel close to Nagercoil, and that institution had no pretence even to the name of a school, but was called a depot and took in only adults. The Eraniel depot has now been abolished and the Nagercoil institute placed on a sounder footing and transferred to the Department of Industries. The Quilon carpentry school will soon be abolished as not serving any useful purpose. In addition to maintaining these State-managed schools Government have been giving grants to a large number of private schools which profess to impart instruction in weaving, lace-work, coir-making and other industries. No clearly defined policy, however, has hitherto been laid down in regard to the curricula or equipment of these institutions and some of them do not fulfil the conditions attached to the grant of State aid and are run as profit-making concerns. It is the object of Government to bring these institutions under effective control and to make the grant dependent on their fulfilling their real purpose. There must also be a considerable addition to the numerical strength of technical schools and a judicious distribution of them over the whole State so as to provide full facilities for giving suitable vocational training to the youth of the country. The ideal to be kept in view is the provision of adequate facilities for such training for the large majority of school boys of limited means in whose case stopping with the fourth year's course in a vernacular school and learning a vocation that will enable them to earn an independent livelihood are far better than pursuing a further literary course aimlessly and to the great detriment of their slender resources and physical health. The problem is one of vast magnitude and great complexity and it has already been examined in a

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